Disposal of Hospital Waste

2364. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering an project submitted by Kerala Government for financial assistance for implementing the scheme for disposal of hospital waste for the district hospitals in Kerala at a cost of Rs. 3.56 crores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b)The Government of Kerala has informed that a proposal for waste disposal from General/District hospitals in the State was sent to the Planning Commission in October, 1995. The Planning Commission requested in Sept., 1995 the Government of Kerala to suitably modiry the proposal. The Planning Commission has reported that the modified proposal has not been received.

Percentage of GNP for Education

2365. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the recommendation of Kothari Commission to raise the allocation of Centre and State for education;

(b) whether the Government have since taken action on that; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The Education Commission, 1964-66, under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.S. Kothari Projected that the educational expenditure, in the country as a whole should rise to 6 per cent of the Gross National Product by 1985-86.

(b) and (c) The National Policy on Education 1986 had inter-alia stated that from the Eighth Five year Plan onwards, the outlay on Education should uniformly exceed 6 per cent of the National income. The Government has also committed in its Common Minimum Programme that 6 per cent of the Nation's GDP will be earmarked for Education. The budgeted expenditure on Education as percentage of GDP has increased from 1.9 per cent in 1967-68 to 3.3 per cent in 1994-95 (RE).

Passport Offices in Assam

2366. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport offices in Assam, location-wise;

(b) the average number of applications processed every month in the said office;

(c) whether there is any delay in the issue of passport in the said office;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to open more number of passport offices in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) There is one passport office in Assam located at Guwahati.

(b) The average number of applications processed in Regional Passport Office, Guwahati is 694 per month.

(c) No, Sir. Passports are being issued within 35 to 40 days from the date of receipt of applications.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Allocation to Aids Treatment

2367. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of latest treatment of the AIDS and the HIV positive cases;

(b) whether any research or study had been conducted by Ayurvedic Colleges and other institutions to develop medicine for treating these diseases;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any specific financial allocation in the Ministry to carry out such activities; and

(e) if not, whether Government propose to make specific allocation for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) A statement on details of latest treatment of the AIDS and HIV positive is enclosed.

(b) and (c) In Ayurveda treatment for AIDS is being tried in T.B. Hospital at Tambaram, Chennai and JJ Group of Hospitals at Mumbai. Trials are also going on in homoeopathy medicines in Chennai and Mumbai and results are still awaited.

(d) and (e) An allocation of Rs. 3.39 crores has been made so far to carry out the research studies by the Government.

Statement

Details of latest treatment of AIDS and HIV positive cases

As soon as a case is detected to be HIV positive the treatment can be started depending on the clinical presentation of the case. The treatment of opportunistic infection has to be done as and when they occur. The treatment can be started with anti-retroviral drugs. There are two groups of anti-retroviral drugs approved by FDA (USA).

(I) Reverse Transcriptase inhibitor

These group of drugs stop the replication of viruses by acting on reverse transcriptase enzyme. These drugs are :

(a) AZT-Azidothymidine

(b) DDI-(Di-iodoionosine-Lamivudine)

(c) DDC (Di-iodoionosine-Stanvudine)

(II) Protease inibitors

These are the group of drugs which inhibit protease enzyme and there by stop the formation of new virions of HIV. The drugs are:

(i) Saquinovir

(ii) Indinavir

(iii) Ritonavir

To start with only AZT (Azidothymidine) was used but it was detected that use of such drugs alone will produce resistant strains of HIV, so combination therapy has been started in Western developed countries which was more effective. The other advantages of the combination therapy is that it has got less of side effects and does not produce resistant strain. In late 1996, the protease inhibitor were discovered and early trials showed that combination of reverse transcriptase inhibitor with protease inhibitor were producing very good results in terms of reduction of viral load. So, it has came into conclusion that early attack on virus with combination of this anti-retrovirals is the more effective treatment for prolonging the life of HIV positive/AIDS cases.

But the cost of such treatment is very high and the infrastructure facilities for example estimation of viral load and PCR are requested for monitoring the progress of treatment of these patients.

Setting up of Colleges

2368. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for a moratorium on setting up of Colleges for general education with conventional subjects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been gradual deterioration in standard of higher education; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no concrete evidence to substantiate this. In pursuance of National Policy on Education, the Government and University Grants Commission (UGC) have been taking appropriate steps from time to time to maintain and upgrade the standard of higher education in the country. Some of the major steps taken in this direction are as follows :-

- Revision of pay scales of college and university teachers w.e.f. 1.1.1986. Opportunities provided.
- for training and career advancement for teachers. All-India Eligibility Test introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.
- Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college teachers.
- 27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 disciplines in under-graduate and post-graduate courses.
- Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement of teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes.
- Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university system.
- Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected colleges.
- Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observance of at least 180 teaching days by universities/colleges.
- Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified by UGC.